

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 95

By Wirgau

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the members of the Henry County Forestry Association upon being named the 2010 County Forestry Association of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those outstanding citizens of our State who have committed themselves to sustaining the renewable natural resources of Tennessee in a manner that provides economic enrichment while preserving valuable resources and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, such dedicated conservationists comprise the membership of the Henry County Forestry Association (CFA), which was recently named the 2010 County Forestry Association of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association; and

WHEREAS, the Henry County association was the twenty-sixth CFA formed in Tennessee when it was organized in 2003 to educate forest landowners about sound forestry practices and to promote forestry in the county; and

WHEREAS, Henry County's local wood industry has helped support the association by sponsoring meals, advertisements, and door prizes; and

WHEREAS, the association has also held numerous field days to disseminate knowledge about forestry; the field days have featured speakers from various venues, including from the University of Tennessee Extension, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Tennessee Division Forestry, and Brenda Valentine, who is a member of the Bass Pro Shops National Pro-Hunting Team; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the State discontinued funding for the Releaf Tennessee program, which was a program that gave every fourth grader in the State a tree seedling to plant on Arbor Day. To support continuation of that program, the Henry County CFA, with the help of local

sponsors, has provided seedlings and forestry information to all Henry County fourth graders for the last five years; and

WHEREAS, the association supported the local wood industry in 2007 when they hosted a field day that showcased local artisans and craftsmen as they worked and, in 2008, they held a “Big Tree” contest for Henry County; and

WHEREAS, the Henry County CFA held the “Big Tree” contest to find the biggest trees in the county, and the contest included nine different species of trees, with over fifty trees that were officially measured; and

WHEREAS, the CFA awarded plaques for the winning tree in each species, and each winning landowner was also given a one-year membership in the association; it was during this contest that the CFA also learned that Henry County is home to Tennessee’s largest Silver Maple tree; and

WHEREAS, the forests of Henry County have been vital to the growth and continuing prosperity of the county; the members of the Henry County CFA have a great desire to protect and manage this great resource to provide jobs, recreation, and products for the county and to serve as an example of good forest stewards; and

WHEREAS, successfully balancing their great concern for economic needs and environmental stewardship, the members of this association are the fitting recipients of the 2010 County Forestry Association of the Year award, and it is appropriate that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor this outstanding organization; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the members of the Henry County Forestry Association upon being named the 2010 County Forestry Association of the Year, thank them for their dedicated and thorough understanding of our State’s precious renewable resources, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in making a positive impact on the forestland and wildlife habitat of Henry County and across Tennessee for years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.